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Frederick Frankland was one of his most ambitious efforts. His busts of women, prominent in society, are to be seen in many private art galleries of New York.

✱ Archibald Wakely, an artist and regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, was found murdered in his rooms at Bayswater, London. His skull was battered in, but the weapon used was not found. There is no clew to the perpetrators of the crime. The police theory is that the murderers entered the premises with the object of reaching the basement and thence digging an entrance to the vaults of a bank next door, when they were intercepted by the Wakely. Another banking institution was robbed in that manner, burglars getting off safely.



ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD

In commenting on the decision of the French Minister of Fine Arts to establish at St. Cloud a "School of Landscape and of Plein Air," the Paris correspondent of the London Times says: "The initiative is one which will not surprise those who know how the Millets, the Corots, the Rousseaus and the Troyons, following the inspiration of the English artists of the school of Constable, enriched French painting with masterpieces that, revolutionary in their day, have now become classic. But, like all official initiatives, this of M. Dujardin-Beaumetz is less the enlightened anticipation of a want than the public recognition of a result already achieved — in this special case an evolution in French painting which officialdom never did anything to facilitate. The return of the artist to nature, the painter's flight from the atelier into the open, attained the proportions of a veritable exodus long before the State opened its eyes to the revolution that had taken place. At present, plein air lights play through 75 per cent of the canvases that are sent to the jury of the salon of the 'National Society.' It is not merely the Independents who have gone into the fields and woods to experiment. And what could be more characteristic of this change of method, from the unreflecting use of the academy tonalities to the effort to reflect the real colors of natural things, than the portrait of the German Emperor by Borchardt in Room ii. of the present collection? This Berlin artist is a Parisian. He has induced his Imperial Majesty to expose himself to a terrible test. William II., in shooting costume, is here represented at full-length, standing on a summit so perilously elevated that he is in the closest of contact with the clouds. As a matter of fact, M. Borchardt posed his Imperial 'subject' on the roof of the Palace of Potsdam. All the blues and violets of ordinary daylight play through the diaphanous figure. Far from being the apotheosis of the monarch, it is the triumph of nature and of the plein air. M. Borchardt must be as fine an ironist as he is an excellent painter."

✱ A curious light is thrown by Charles Franche, in a French periodical, on the flourishing trade in spurious works of art carried on in Europe. The history of two reputed Fragonard panels sold at the great Cronier sale in Paris is very instructive. These very ordinary decorative panels—"Le Concern dans le Parc" and "La Collation a la Fontaine"—were sold for \$240 and \$300 respectively to the Baron d'Ivry, who resold them in 1884 for \$2,400. At the dispersal of the great Cronier collection in 1905 they realized \$39,000. The explanation of their astonishing rise in apparent value is as follows: The panels had passed into the hands of the French sugar millionaire Cronier, an avid but not too discriminating collector, and the syndicate of dealers who had "unloaded" them on to Cronier had to run them up to a price approaching what he paid for them or risk exposure. M. Franche relates that a certain Paul Vernon, who died a few years ago, enriched himself to the extent of a million dollars by forging the pictures of Daubigny, Corot, and Diaz. With the methods of the last he had made himself familiar while a pupil of the master. He never received less than \$400 from the dealers for any one of his forgeries, while the pictures to which he signed his own name fetched only \$40 to \$60.

✱ The Mayor of Budapest writes that the ceremony of unveiling the statue of George Washington, erected in that city, will take place on September 16th. When, a few years ago, a statue of Kossuth was erected in Cleveland, Hungarian citizens of the United States started a movement to raise the money for a Washington statue in Budapest. The call for subscriptions met with a hearty response, and the statue to be unveiled next month is the result.

✱ The Athenæum warns collectors of Sèvres porcelain that large quantities of forgeries are in the market, adding: "One Paris paper puts the market value of these forgeries at 16,000,000f. per annum. They are manufactured not only in Paris and elsewhere in France, but also at Leipzig and at Berlin. An expert is not at all likely to be deceived by these spurious articles, but, unfortunately, the average buyer is not an expert."



BOOKS RECEIVED

"Duval's Artistic Anatomy." Revised by A. Melville Paterson. Cassell & Co.

"The Art of Portrait Painting," by the Hon. John Collier. Cassell & Co.

"The Royal Institute of Painters in Water-Colors." Ed. by Charles Holme. John Lane Co.

"How to Look at Pictures," by Robert Clermont Witt. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

"The Talbot J. Taylor Collection." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$6 net.

"The Czar's Gift," by William Ordway Partridge. Funk & Wagnalls Co.